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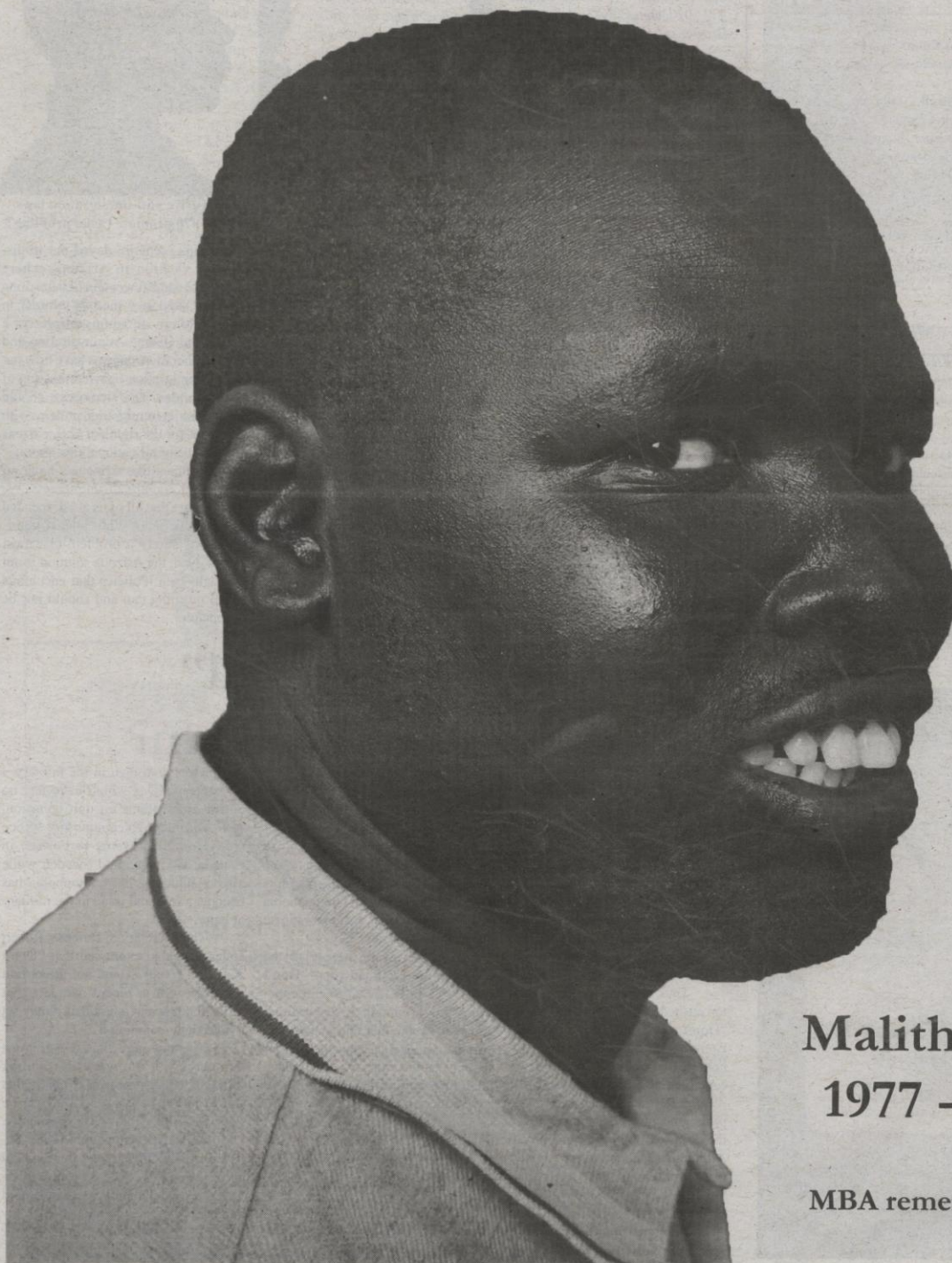
RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Malith Wiek  
1977 - 2010

MBA remembers...12





## THE BELL RINGER

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*Antiques & Flowers*

# Arizona Senate bill threatens basic American rights (Not okay)

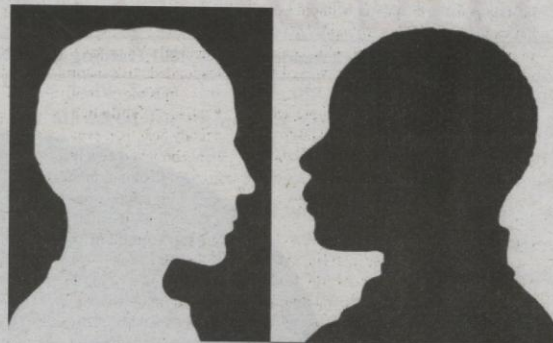
By Campbell Haynes  
Staff Opinion Writer

The state of Arizona recently effectively legalized racial profiling. The intent of Arizona Senate Bill 1070, signed by Governor Jan Brewer on April 23, is, however, not malicious or intentionally racist.

The stated goal of the bill is to reduce drastically illegal immigration into Arizona and prosecute those who take refuge in Arizona illegally. The bill requires proof of citizenship in the form of a driver's license or equivalent documentation and gives police officers broad powers to arrest anyone suspected of being an illegal alien.

While many will argue – generally correctly – that illegal immigration should be strictly controlled, the Arizona bill has disturbing implications for U.S. citizens. In this country, we treasure our “unalienable” rights, like privacy and freedom from discrimination. Arizona's bill scarily infringes upon both of those rights.

By giving police officers the power to detain anyone suspected of being an illegal alien, Arizona has encouraged racial profiling. Police officers now can – and will – arrest persons of Hispanic (or any other) descent and force them to show proof of citizenship. Oftentimes, those detained will be U.S. citizens, ordered to “prove” their citizenship



Arizona recently passed one of the most extensive anti-immigration laws to date. Despite its good intentions, does SB1070 promote racial profiling?

because of their skin color.

The bill highlights a disturbing, xenophobic trend that has come to great prominence recently. Fearful of job loss and cross-border crime, people from all walks of life have become vehemently opposed to illegal immigration. While this opposition can be very legitimate, it loses legitimacy when it morphs into a distrust of different immigrant populations. Such distrust justifies xenophobia, racism, and distasteful policies like Arizona SB 1070.

Unfortunately, politicians have capitalized on this anti-immigrant sentiment to capture votes. Republicans, in particular, are trying to mobilize fright about the weak economy and distrust of immigrants to win votes in the upcoming mid terms.

This scenario played out in disturbing fashion in Arizona, where Governor Jan Brewer and Senator John McCain supported the bill in order to appear tough on immigration. As a result, the Obama Administration and the Democratic Congress have now put broad immigration reform at the top of their agendas. The Democrats should balance strict immigration policies with a respect for the rights of U.S. citizens and people of all nationalities.

Policies like Arizona's have no place in a country of immigrants. We often forget that all of us are descended from immigrants. While illegal immigration is surely a problem that must be resolved, the Arizona solution is not the right path. Policies that encourage racial profiling can and should not be acceptable.

## “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” ...Don’t Fix the Problem?

By Jesse Suh  
Staff Opinion Writer

In 1992, Radioman Petty Officer Third Class Allen Schindler was found beaten to death by a shipmate. The man accused of the kill, Kennon Privette, did not kill Schindler because he had insulted him in any way. Instead, he killed him because Schindler was a known homosexual.

Thus, in 1993, President Clinton pushed Public Law 103-106, or “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”, through Congress on the premise that any homosexual would “create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability.” Although its intentions are good, the enforcement of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” has been ineffective at curbing sexual discrimination.

Though “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” was prompted by violence

against homosexuals, the law has done nothing to curb that violence. The anonymity of sexual orientation has only led to further harassment by homophobic service members toward those perceived to be homosexual. Thus, “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” only attempts to conceal the problem of homophobia in the military rather than to eliminate discrimination against gays.

That being said, there is still the conservative argument that “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” is vital to unit cohesion. This argument is discredited, however, by the fact that blatant discrimination against perceived homosexuals in the military still exists. Furthermore, the cited danger to unit cohesion is scientifically outdated. Clinton’s original argument was based on a study conducted in the 1980’s, and the most recent studies conducted in multiple countries all conclude the opposite.

England and Israel, two of the most modern militaries in the world, both have policies of accepting openly

gay men and women in the military – effective policies which have had no detrimental effects on unit cohesion. A Government Accountability Office study found the same to be true in Canada, Germany, and Sweden while also concluding that homophobia has become a minimal issue in the military at large.

The Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, has also expressed that “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” would not affect unit cohesion with a recent mandate that limits the law and a hint that it may set a precedent to ending it.

The message that the greatest democracy in the world is sending through “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” is that the problem of homophobia can be mitigated through sexual anonymity. Unfortunately, homophobia is not deterred by such means, and our national conception of the issue is outdated. Perhaps the Obama administration should address the root cause and enact policy aimed to foster better understanding for homosexuals.



# Juniors ace Wumbology, the study of Wumbo

By Andrew Powell  
News Editor

If I had to choose one word to describe the juniors in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, without a doubt that word would be *luposlipaphobic* – fearful of being pursued around a kitchen table by timberwolves on a newly waxed floor while wearing wool socks.

If I had to choose two more words, they would be **Alex Hunt**. What a lovable guy! He has been working hard to get into college, and recently has been thinking about getting a new toothbrush. By the way, some of you might not know this, but he is a stellar orator.

**Joe "War"-Riegle** tells me that Alex's friendship with senior **Luke Colbert**, or **Lukey**, as Alex calls him, is going well, and that **Hampton Farr** loves his mother.

During MBA Prom **Hayes McCord** found out he has a mutual friend with **THE Tavarres Jefferson**. That news flash was provided to you, commercial free, by **Clay Garrett**.

The other day, **Wurter** was talking to **Ralph** and **Meechem** about how **Afruigi Wooster**, and **Milto** got into a fight over which one was best friends with **Fudge**.

Unfortunately, **Elwood**, the moderator of the aforementioned conversation, decided that it wasn't worth his time and left to play Pokémon and look at his holographic Machamp until his bedtime at 8:30 P.M., much to the chagrin of **Richard Chester**. The moral of this story, as I'm sure you've

already figured out, is that sometimes life gives you bananas that are too green, so you better not forget to bring a towel.

**Michael Peters** has just made a return to the premier spotlight known as being mentioned in the Junior News. Congrats, Michael! When asked how he does it, he responded, "It's natural."

In some exciting news, **Christopher "T-bear" Sandwich** is looking more like a teddy bear than ever. Furthermore, **Sandy-pants** bought a new teddy bear to add to his collection of international teddy bears. This one, Cito informs me, is from Guam.

**Woodin** is sick and tired of **Zubat** using supersonic and **Machamp** hurting itself in its confusion. Wall-E ang-ry!!

At this point and time in your read, **Jack Warne** wishes to remind you to stay classy. Right back atcha, Jack!

**Mug Jahnsen** spent his weekend disciplin' it with the Ultimate team in their quest for a state title. They came up short, unfortunately placing 2<sup>nd</sup>, but MJ wants to thank all the many people who came to support and mention that Quaker is a loser.

**Cooper's** band **Veritas** will be going on tour throughout the South for two weeks this summer. Way to go, Coop! Don't forget about all us at MBA while you're off being a rockstar.

**Warren** is emphatic that now that the Cowboys have **Dez Bryant**, they have officially solidified their position for winning the Super Bowl next year. Not if **The Big Meech** has anything to say about it!

**Cody Fisher** is and has always been a fervent fan of the Denver Broncos.

**Ford A. and Nicky K.** are waging a war in my inbox of news comments about (against) each other. Something about "la di da," "lunar landings," and **Franklin's** giggling. I'm afraid this feud is too irrelevant to the junior class as a whole to relate in this highly organized, streamlined, and focused news piece, but I appreciate the input nonetheless. To **Ford and Nicky**: we all know that you're best friends at heart, so why keep sowing such discord among brethren!

**Gage Baxter** is excited for next year's musical with **Harpeth Hall**, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!* It's a fun show, so come out to auditions, May 5. I see you, **Ford Altenbern**.

The other day, **Collin Brannon** was telling me about a really awesome dream he had, except it was so awesome he couldn't tell me about it.

**Mohammad Mehio's** news submission got straight to the point: "I wumbo, you wumbo, he, she, we wumbo" – **Patrick**





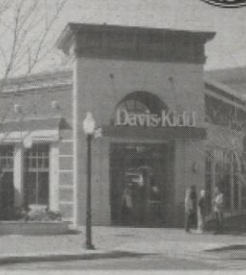
**Philip Spellman**, you wonder why **Hershel** picked on you in seventh grade. Photo courtesy of Mr. **Jamie Tillman**

**Star.**

**Hiller Miggins'** cat died and the funeral was held on MBA Prom night. No, we promise, **E.T.**, it's like totally legit!


And, finally, I would have had something interesting to end on, but **Will Granbery** was too busy studying Chinese to respond to my email.



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# Seniors prepare for APs, Victory Road, Elite Four

By Will Henry  
Entertainment Editor

As the number of school days left in the year dwindles down, the Class of 2010 has begun to sense that the end of an era is drawing near. And, just as any good baseball player would do, the seniors are sliding hard into the finish.

Speaking of baseball, despite all his greatest efforts, **Patrick Clarke** has yet to hit more than a single all season.

**Ben Mecklenborg** recently saw a dead opossum and decided to kick it. It wasn't dead – hence, the scars. When and where this happened are yet to be determined.

The other day, **Jackson Roberts** threw a water bottle into a microbe bus. Within the hour, three Ensworth parents had complained, and the *Nashville Scene* was on site to cover the story.

**Richard "Turner" Henderson** announced to his English class that he's tired of being called "Turner," and will respond only to "Little Richard." Thanks, "Huge Sammy" **Berklaich**, for pushing him over the edge.

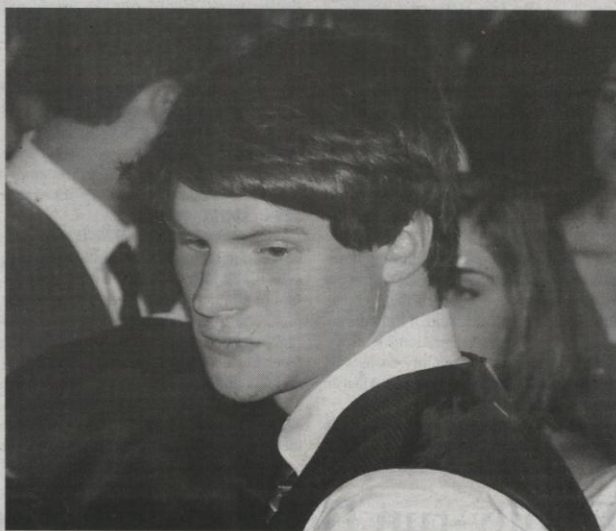
**Seth Akers-Campbell** and **Dalton Fouts** have taken to intense late-night work-outs. **Pat "The Printing Press" Killian**

approves. Aaron "So what if it's a banana peel" **Lutkowitz** does not.

I know that I, for one, am excited about college. So is **Jichao Deng**, who will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison next year. Everyone looks to college for different reasons. **John Lowe** is eager to be a frat boy. Same with **Patrick Lovett**. **Tee Griscom** can't wait to get married (2014!!!).

In this issue's "Blast from the Past," I will be delivering a primary source update. Before "Rites of Spring," I went to Mellow Mushroom for pizza. As I was going to the bathroom, I ran into **Andrew D'Aquila**, who now works there. He's grown and lost some weight but still laughs and smiles all the time. He plans to attend Nashville State next year. After talking to him for a few minutes, I came to the conclusion that deep down, he's still that jolly guy who strings lacrosse heads better than the next man. Until next time, take it easy, **DQ**.

In other news, **Nate Smith** successfully seduced **Sara Martin** into dating with his Lax Bro antics; **Mitchell Lukens** is going to dig up the legendary Supersaurus this summer; **Thomas Moore** went to prom with some bilingual chick who flew in from Germany; and **Daniel Todd** named all but two of the original Pokémon from memory



Michael Seitz goes hard. Daniel Todd's Roll Red Roll Call photo has a new challenger for most intimidating senior portrait. Photo courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman

after finishing his test early in the State Math Competition, which he won. Mankey and

Primeape, Daniel. Mankey and Primeape!

## Freshmen all giddy about first high-school finals

By McLean Hudson  
Staff Writer

Spring is in the air, and the freshmen of MBA can all but taste the end of school. Less than half a quarter separates us from the rich bounties of summer vacation. That mid-quarter, however, is chock full of somehow longer classes, superfluous assignments, exam review, and – for many of us – the last Latin homework we will ever have to look at. Cherish it well. But enough of looking ahead. It's all about the now these days...

**Mohammad Azamtarrhian** has reportedly washed his hair, and **Tate Ramsden** doesn't have a sunburn for the first time in two months. **Mitchell Flautt** almost burned down **Mr. Pruitt's** room while lighting marshmallows and Cheetos on fire. Don't worry – it was educational. **Landon Bullock** is now ever cooler than before, as he can now do "wall spins." Hoorah. **Chris**

**Duffy** will never say it without laughing, and **John Garrett** owns **Nick Green** in boomeranging.

Congratulations to **Adam Bowman**, who won some enormous science competition with a project so complex it confused **Kevin Wang**. On the slightly more athletic side of competition, the JV lax team finished up another successful season, and JV baseball will end with what might be an all-time low record for MBA – something like 4-10. Chill bro, we play baseball.

The freshmen of the tennis team are continuing a successful season, led by **Andrew Karpos**. The team won some

tournament at MBA a while back. More importantly, they served nachos by the tennis courts.

**Nick "the Sick" Green** was sick again a few weeks ago, but it's all good because he brought cake back to school.

**Chris Habermann** got third in Laser Quest after partying with some German girls. **Gary Jackson** got second in the annual Founder's Day

Race, so good job there. **Wilson Johnson's** elbow blew up again, and **Tony Birds** was a Lifter of the Week. Woot woot for him.

Meanwhile, I saw **Bradley Long** literally for the first time this year.

**Lucas Littlejohn** says "Justice FTW."

**Bennett Maxwell** drove too many people in his car, his mom found out, she destroyed him, and then he did it again. **Christian Sargent** is giving a shout out to **Bernatavitz's** 1<sup>st</sup> period. And he says something about sammiches (?). **Sam Neglia** is probably smiling right now.

All's good with **Sam White**, **Pig Rieke**, and **D White the Younger**. And, of course, it needs to be said that **Jack Kinloch** is a great soccer manager. I mean he is just doing a fantastic job. Kudos to him and **Lizzie**.

So, just four more weeks, that's all to go. It may look bleak, your grades may be low, but chin-up, kid, and you just might avoid the fourth-quarter skid. When you're down, make a smile from that frown, and remember to floss. Look out, world, these freshmen are boss. Adieu.

MBA/HH Freshman Rave!  
Saturday (5/1), 7-10 PM  
MBA Theater

## Sophomores' parents never explained tooth fairy

By Joe Scherrer and Will Stewart  
Staff Writers

As **Will Peffen** said for the third article in a row, "It's been a happenin' year." Here's what's been going on in the sophomore class while you weren't looking:

In an odd twist of fate, **Bryan Oslin** recently broke his ankle. The consensus is that karma is punishing Bryan for making fun of other people's ankle injuries.

**Kelly "Kayhaze" Haselton** was recently quoted as saying that the debate team should "harvest some baby souls" to gain strength for an upcoming tournament. When questioned about his statement, Kayhaze exclaimed, "It was taken out of context!"

In related news, Kelly finally con-

ceded to **John Mark Bellet's** requests to "get in my belly."

In light of recent concerts such as *My Morning Jacket* and *Rites of Spring*, many sophomores are waiting hopefully for **Mr. Gioia** to deliver on his promise of a Vampire Weekend performance at MBA.

Overhearing a conversation concerning *Cheerwine's* level of carbonation, **Baker Swain** quickly interjected, "Oh, yeah, *Cheerwine's* really bad for you. It has a lot of carbs." Upon being asked whether he knew the difference between carbonation and carbohydrates, Baker just giggled and walked away.

**Palmer Campbell** kept on "playin' for keeps" at the tennis match. We'd tell you how he did, if we hadn't been distracted by

the nacho cheese and the seniors' pathetic cheering.

**Zach Chen** went on a rampage in the Research Room and proceeded to drop-kick the nuclear-fusion, arc-welding Ferris-wheel-of-death into **Dr. Marro's** collection of manga comics.

When acting out scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in English class, **Daniel Mace** begged to be cast as Titania, Queen of the Fairies. What began as a lighthearted performance, however, soon became disturbing when Daniel refused to stop performing and continued to act like Titania, even outside of class.

**Adam Hawiger** says that he's not a commie. Instead, he now claims allegiance to the Neo-Bonapartist Separatist Confed-

eration of Swaziland and wants to wage war against the antichrist, Obama.

**Karthik Sastry** is panicking after learning that Hitler wore pants. Now that he knows he has something in common with Hitler, he says "I don't think I can live with myself."

**Weston Bell** wants to be a computer nerd so he can "get all the ladies." Good luck there, Weston.

And for the finish: **Matt Anderson** got a haircut in an effort to tame his neck hair; **John Mark Bellet** wishes he were Jesse Suh; **Tanner Yancy** is still a strawberry cow; **Grant Altschuler** combs his hair; **Isaac Kennedy** still exists; **Aidan Davis** is grunting; and **Emeka Ikpeazu** has yet to return to MBA.



# Brilliant visuals couple with murky plot in *Secret*

By Trey Howard  
Staff Writer

If you aren't interested in a film's elegant display of color, design, or its meticulous attention to detail, then *The Secret of Kells* probably will not interest you. Overall, the story is meaningful and effective, but at times the plot, as well as certain other elements, seems inexplicable and ambiguous. A lot of the film's significance is left to your own interpretation.

The film follows a young monk-in-training named Brendan, whose caring but ironclad uncle is the abbot of their monastery. Living in the Celtic land of Kells during medieval times, Brendan, along with the rest of the religious community, focuses on building a wall in order to defend against an oncoming Viking attack.

Things change, however, when a fellow monk arrives from a foreign island, bringing with him the unfinished Book of

Kells. Brendan befriends the monk and is abruptly entrusted with completing the important Book at any cost.

*The Secret of Kells* is clear in declaring the book important but never really demonstrates why. The film also manages to have a lot of plotting but still to seem as if nothing really happens in it. Though these remarks sound negative, they are simply observations that don't convey the whole of the experience.

Calling *The Secret of Kells* inexplicable and ambiguous is accurate but deceptive, as its mysterious qualities are what make the film more than just a visual spectacle. The picture is highly allegorical, perhaps to a fault, and doesn't completely work at base level, but at a deeper level the film is strong and thought provoking.

Even if we deem such a plot meritless, *Secret* still deserves praise. The visuals are the main attraction and what sets the movie apart from other animated films, with gorge-



Though its highly allegorical plot can seem inexplicable and ambiguous, *The Secret of Kells* offers stunning visual precision and artistry that should please any viewer.

geous images and masterful craftsmanship. The painter/canvas feel is truly amazing and holds no comparison with any other film.

This Irish-Belgian-French release marks the first work by Irish animator Tom Moore and was so well received that it earned an Oscar nomination for Best Animated Film at last year's awards. This acknowledgement is remarkable when considering the fact that a small Irish film

beat out over thirty bigger-budget American cartoons for the spot.

All in all, *The Secret of Kells* isn't for everyone. This feature lacks the big-name vocal talents, heavy action, and 3-D of the domestic ones offered at least once a month. If you are interested in something different and good, then check out *The Secret of Kells* as it shows at the Belcourt Theater over the next month.

## Family-run Demos' offers homemade Italian goodness



All of Demos' locations around Nashville are run by the original family and offer consistent quality in service, food, and pricing. Photo courtesy of Google Images

By Blake Burns  
Staff Writer

It's been a few issues since you

last heard from me, but this time around I decided to visit a very favorite of mine: Demos'. Getting back into the restaurant review cycle was fairly easy with the zestful

Italian of Demos'.

Walking into Demos', I was immediately seated, which hinted that my experience would be – as usual – superb. Demos' has a very unique ambiance, with dim lighting complemented with huge chandeliers. Demos' is always a quiet place with comfortable seating, making it perfect for a conversation. The waiters and waitresses are trained very well, proven by excellent service and speedy delivery of your food.

The first part of my meal was the appetizer of baked chicken soup. This soup is already great, but with the addition of their freshly shredded parmesan cheese, it couldn't have gotten better.

Next my waiter brought my main course, hamburger steak and spaghetti with meat sauce. The hamburger steak was extremely juicy and quickly devoured, but the spaghetti was the best part. Demos' homemade spaghetti sauce has a unique

flavor and is unlike any spaghetti sauce I have ever had, and I have had many.

Demos' also has very good parmesan crusted rolls that are great dipped in the soup, with spaghetti sauce, or just on the side.

The very best part of my meal was yet to come though. Expecting to spend much money for the quality of the food I had eaten, I was shocked to find my meal to be less than \$10.

Demos' is located at 1115 Northwest Broad Street in Murfreesboro, 300 Commerce Street in downtown Nashville, 130 Legends Drive in Lebanon, and 161 Indian Lake Boulevard in Hendersonville.

Demos' is family owned and operated, so no matter which location you go to, you get the same great experience.



## Mr. Burrito Fresh, I am disappoint (You call this queso?)

By Seth Akers-Campbell and  
Thompson Barr  
The Food Review Team

Tbarr and SAC, MBA's Food Review Team, woke up on a Sunday morning and had a hankering for McCabe's Pub. We thought, why not review it? But when we drove up – nearly salivating at the thought of a good burger – it was closed. The parking lot was roped off. We did not review McCabe's, so it gets a 0. And our recommendation: Don't go there when it's closed. The service is awful.

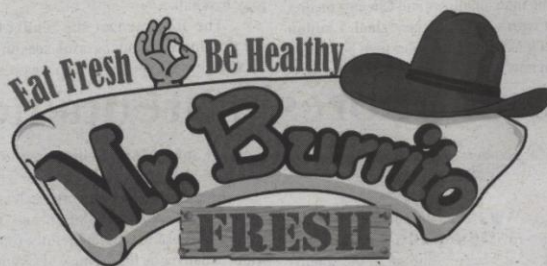
Next we went to Hillsboro Village to get our grub. We walked up to the vibrant and open-air Sam's Bar and Grille on 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, only to discover this establishment was 21 and up. Blocked by forces of time and space beyond our control, we decided to pass it by. We were getting desperate.

We were at our wits' end and wanted to give up. But we made a last gasp effort, trying a place – again in Hillsboro Village – called Mr. Burrito Fresh. Having had

such a disappointing evening, we were really hoping for some good food. The name was inviting, and the location familiar to Tbarr, who mourned the loss of the spot's previous occupant, an Indian restaurant that The SAC never seemed to notice with Pizza Perfect next door.

So, the Burrito place is organized similarly to Baja Burrito – eerily similarly, in fact. It had the same chalkboard-style menu and spitting-image tortilla steamers. Based on appearance alone, we would think of calling them out on copyright-infringement. It differed from Baja Burrito in two key categories, however. (One) It is open on Sunday. (Two) It was ominously unoccupied rather than overcrowded.

For food, these Village burrito-makers were of a far lower caliber than our favorite Berry Hill burrito joint. The steak burritos purchased were mediocre: the rice was flavorless and the *carne* was stringy. The combo meal (priced at a lofty \$11) includes chips and a drink. Though Tbarr seemed not to touch his guacamole, the SAC com-



Mr. Burrito Fresh may have copied Baja Burrito's classy interior, but he definitely failed at recreating any of Baja's tasty cuisine. Photo courtesy of Google Images

plained of the high onion content of his favorite avocado concoction.

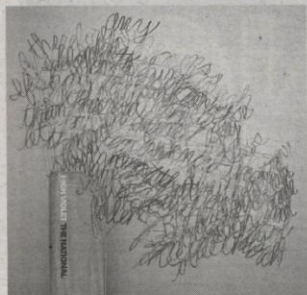
Worst of all, the queso, which they called "cheese dip" (suspicious?), looked more drinkable than dipable. Similar in texture to water, its viscosity was estimated by the SAC at around  $9 \times 10^{-4}$  Pa·s. It just really didn't hit the spot. The fruit tea was either watered down or not sugary enough.

Either way, it was inferior to the many fruit-tea vendors in Nashville. (For the record, The SAC recommends getting your daily dose of fruit tea from Calypso Café.)

Overall, we give Mr. Burrito Fresh 4.02444 (repeating of course) out of 10. Sorry to Mr. Burrito Fresh, but if you want to ingest some good Mexican food, go to SATCo right down the street.



# The National assuage fears with superb ambience



By Daniel Smith  
Staff Writer

Atmosphere is the great controller of impressions. Romantic dinners are, after all, often reliant on candlelight to achieve the airy, dreamlike qualities associated with love. To replace those candles with bare fluorescents would be to ruin all significance surrounding the occasion and, consequently, the evening itself. The idea, the thought, the effort, the emotions—all the vital ingredients for a successful date—would be intact, but the mere absence of mood would deflate everything else.

Brooklyn indie artists The National are well acquainted with the delicacies of background and, since 2005's watershed *Alligator*, have constructed meticulous pieces of rock often described by critics as subtle and mature. Their dense music, complemented by vocalist/lyricist Matt

Berninger's characteristically morose, enigmatic baritone, is celebrated within independent circles.

The band's previous two albums, *Alligator* and *Boxer*, are now considered staples of the Noughties' musical output. But, with *Alligator* and *Boxer* nestled safely in the past, The National are now faced with the difficult task of branching their influence into the present with LP5, *High Violet*.

Fans of the band were divided by a controversial performance of opener "Terrible Love" earlier this year on NBC's *Late Night* with Jimmy Fallon, where The National broke traditional style, appearing grand and epic. Immediately, accusations of "they're becoming as pompous and overcooked as Arcade Fire" began circulating.

Admittedly, the Fallon gig was frighteningly out of character for the group. First single "Bloodbuzz Ohio," though, helped settle the scary image of Berninger and company selling out arena venues with Coldplay-esque soars. "I still owe money to the money to the money I owe," is classic The National, and the accompanying music is as subtle as anything on *Boxer*.

Yet listeners were still wary of the Fallon performance until *The New York Times* streamed *High Violet* in its entirety, during which "Terrible Love" appeared in a much darker, menacing guise, like Jack Nicholson's Joker up against Heath Ledger's reinvention. And so we enter The National's darkest full-length to date.

Lyrical, *High Violet* presents a logical progression from *Boxer*. Whereas

the former examined how "you wouldn't want an angel watching...another innocent, elegant fall into the unmagnificent lives of adults," *Violet*'s themes are rooted firmly in a post-adolescent mindset. "I live in a city sorrow built. It's in my honey, it's in my milk," Berninger mourns in "Sorrow" before pleading: "Cover me in rag and bone sympathy, 'cause I don't want to get over you."

It's a truly affecting moment—one of many—and utilizes Berninger's gloomy voice to the fullest. "Afraid of Everyone" and "Lemonworld," both album highlights, contain abstract phrases that still achieve emotional heights ("With my shiny new star-spangled tennis shoes on, I'm afraid of everyone," "It'll take a better war to kill a college man like me").

That The National's words are more obfuscated than ever, and that their sound is heavier than ever, evokes parallels to *Automatic for the People*-era R.E.M. Regardless of influences, *High Violet*'s lyrical achievement is on par, if not better, than that of their prior efforts, which many fans will agree is a high claim to boast.

As for the musicians themselves, drummer Bryan Devendorf is the hero of The National. Rarely in indie do drummers

become more than a keeper of rhythm. In fact, I can name very few indie drummers (Panda Bear of Animal Collective comes to mind). Devendorf is at the top of his game on *High Violet*, coming in when he needs to and never overstaying his welcome. His drums support the guitar, bass, string, and vocal arrangements so well that they become as integral to the mood of the songs as the key instruments themselves. And mood, as I discussed earlier, is key.

So, what is the mood of *High Violet*, exactly? Well, in short, it's like a Woody Allen movie, set in dreary Manhattan, with all the humor drained out of it. There are no bright spots on this album. However, this is not to say that The National have become obsessed with melodramatic darkness; there are, indeed, hints of dark obsessions, but it's all conveyed through the same medium as their other work: subtlety.

Of course, subtlety lends itself to backlash, oftentimes. Many people are going to condemn *Violet* as a boring album. I, too, considered it a disappointment initially. But *High Violet* is a grower, even more so than *Boxer* or *Alligator* were. Listen to it once, then listen to it again...

5/5



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# Spring Sport Stats

compiled by Kyle Brantley  
Sports co-Editor

## Varsity Lacrosse

Points	Assists
1. George Curtis - 49	1. George Curtis - 25
2. Ben Charpentier - 39	2. Ben Charpentier - 18
3. Clay Adams - 36	3. Clay Adams - 7
4. Connor Pagnani - 20	
5. Gray Curtis - 15	<b>Groundballs</b>
6. Hayden Holliman - 12	1. George Curtis - 62
	2. Matt Bracy - 61
	3. Ben Charpentier - 48
Goals	SV%
1. Clay Adams - 29	4. Sam Berklacich - 43
2. George Curtis - 24	5. Keesler Sanders - 39
3. Ben Charpentier - 21	6. Clay Adams - 38
4. Connor Pagnani - 16	
5. Gray Curtis - 15	
6. Hayden Holliman - 11	

Come out to support the Big Red and its seniors as state championships draw near!

Player	G	AB	R	2B	3B	HR	SB	Sig	OBP	BA
Alex Kohls	18	62	14	7	0	0	5	.532	.542	.419
Alex Hunt	18	45	17	6	0	0	0	.533	.559	.400
Jackson Roberts	15	48	18	3	0	0	8	.458	.526	.396
David Lee	18	61	25	4	0	1	20	.508	.526	.393
Joe Riegler	18	47	24	3	2	1	11	.574	.591	.362
James Kay	18	50	24	5	0	1	0	.500	.592	.340
Oliver Oldacre	17	48	12	7	0	0	2	.479	.500	.333
Neil Reinhardt	18	56	26	8	1	0	13	.500	.547	.321
William Tanner	16	47	11	3	3	1	8	.553	.392	.298

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## Baseball

Player	G	IP	BB	SO	Sv	ERA
Neil Reinhardt	5	5.1	4	8	3	0.00
Lawson Factor	5	10.0	3	3	1	1.40
Aubrey Witherington	3	15.1	7	10	0	3.65
Paul Baker	4	18.2	16	10	0	4.50
Denney Sandwith	6	11.1	7	7	0	4.94
Luke Colbert	5	18.1	20	10	0	4.96
Oliver Oldacre	5	24.1	9	11	0	5.18
Jody Gorham	4	8.0	6	5	1	6.13

## GAA

1. Patrick Clarke - 6.45
2. Alex Austin - 10.15

Baseball vs JPII  
4:00 PM, Home  
Tonight!

Lax vs CBHS  
TSLA Quarterfinals  
8:00 PM  
Tonight!

## Los Banditos fall to archrivals in state finals

By Tom Markham  
Staff Writer

The MBA Los Banditos hosted the Tennessee State Ultimate Frisbee tournament on April 24 and 25, battling tough competition and fierce weather in a weekend of some wild Ultimate Frisbee madness.

The team captured 2<sup>nd</sup> place, blowing through most competition with ease until the finals.

On Saturday, the team came out quick and early, taking a decisive 15-0 win over Bearden High School. Rain delayed much of the play Saturday, and the Big Red was barely able to squeak out a 1-0 victory over Blackman High School before play was called for the day.

Going into Sunday play with a favorable seed, the Big Red rose to the challenge. Two previously unheard of teams, Columbia High and White Station, both fought hard to topple Los Banditos, but experience and team depth proved too much for these adversaries. MBA captured a 12-5 victory over Columbia and shut out White Station in the second half to win 15-5. A stellar late game performance by David "DAAAAAAV-

VVE!" Maynard sealed the deal against White Station.

Then, with ominous rain clouds looming, MBA took on its much-lauded rival, the USN Brutal Grassburn, for the state championship. With emotions running high on both sides, the game promised to be a good one. And indeed it was!

In what was arguably the largest crowd assembled in the brief history of Tennessee Ultimate Frisbee, the bitter rivals battled for over two hours on the turf in a war of attrition. In their last game for the Big Red, seniors Sam Moxley, Kyle Brantley, Stephen Gaittens, and Joseph Lowe rose to the occasion, giving their all and inspiring the rest of the team to fight to the finish. But alas, the Big Red could not capture the elusive title.

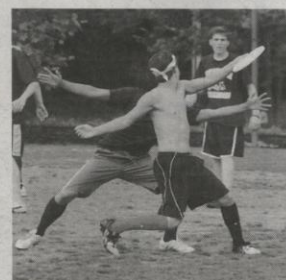
Heavy winds and fatigue did not help, as Los Banditos had some trouble finishing long points on the goal line. But the game was not lost due to lack of emotional intensity. With particular moments of tension from juniors Mitchell Shope and John Wyse, the team fought to the very end, earning every scraped knee and grass burn on defense in the 15-5 loss, a score that does not well



MBA's Ultimate team concluded another hard-fought season last weekend in the state tournament, losing to a talented USN squad (above) 15-5 in the championship game. (Right) MBA plays hard in the tourney's first round.

illustrate the effort this team put into defeating its archrival.

The team thanks Coach Russ for an excellent season and has high hopes for stealing back the state title from USN next season, as Los Banditos will be returning a very talented senior class next year.



## Ryan Venable flies down track, under radar

By George Swenson  
Staff Writer

As the track season heads toward the last lap, senior Ryan Venable will be leading the Big Red track team through the season's final meets and into the state tournament.

After not making the freshman lacrosse team, Ryan chose to run track to fill the spring season. His continual hard work throughout his earlier years has allowed Ryan to distinguish himself from the pack as an elite hurdler in the 110m hurdles, the 300m hurdles and in the high jump.

Despite an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the 110m hurdles at last year's state

meet, Ryan maintains a low profile around campus. Perhaps due to the track season's late finish in the year (State falls on nearly the same day as graduation), his accomplishments remain notably unknown to much of the student body.

This year he hopes to break 15 seconds in the 110 meter hurdles, his top event. He also would like to go over 6'2", his personal best in the high jump. As for the team, Ryan wants to win the state championship. He thinks this goal can be gained with the depth the team has.

Next year, Ryan will be attending High Point University, where he will continue his track career. When asked how he

came across High Point, he responded, "In one of my college counseling meetings, Coach Klausner suggested that I look into High Point along with a few other colleges, so Coach Pippin found out which of these colleges had a men's track team."

"The coaches at High Point started emailing me, and they suggested that I visit, so I did, and I loved it there," he continued. "Soon after that, I applied Early Action and was accepted at the beginning of December."

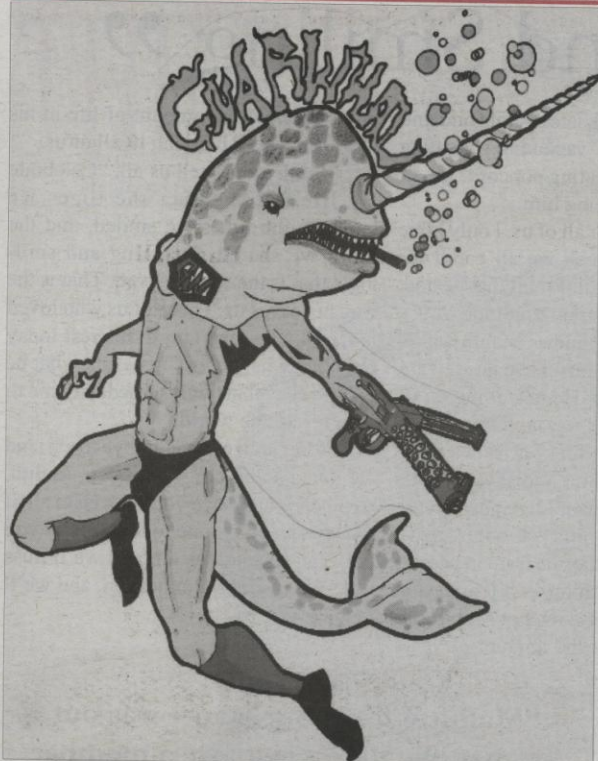
After Ryan moves on to High Point, he says, "I will miss everybody on the team. It will be very different next year not seeing the people that I have worked out with for

the last four years. But most of all I will miss my coaches. They have taught me everything that I know about track. If it were not for Coach Pippin, I would not know anything about running hurdles."

Although track has not always been his favorite sport, he began to enjoy track when he first was able to understand how to do his events. Reflecting back on his track career, Ryan knows that he has come a long way and will continue his progression throughout this last high school season and into his college years.

MBA will host the Division II regional track meet on May 21<sup>st</sup> - one of the MBA community's last opportunities to see this under-acclaimed athlete in action.





## !! Gnarwhal freakin' rocks at Zeitgeist

By Lucas Littlejohn  
Staff Writer

Zeitgeist 2010, the annual USN-held concert for local talent and high-school bands, was the meeting place for 22 groups of musicians, comedians, and storytellers.

The best performance came from the

grunge-metal band Gnarwhal. Gnarwhal presented a raw, unabated energy in their music that I had never heard or experienced before—remarkably, for the entirety of their songs, all of which touched on seven or eight minutes.

The guitarists were solid and did not seem to make many mistakes. The most exciting part of their act, however, was their drummer. A drummer myself, I claim with confidence that he was the best drummer I have ever seen or heard. The complexity and speed of his beats, combined with the sheer length of his performance, simply blew my mind.

Gnarwhal did have one major flaw: their singer. "Screamer" is perhaps the more appropriate term. He was also one of the guitarists, and he just did not have enough talent to fit in with the rest of the act. Fortunately, the songs were mostly instrumentals, so the screaming was kept at a minimum.

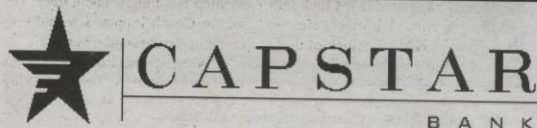
Gnarwhal was the band that stood out through all the talented acts in Zeitgeist 2010, and they have major potential to make an influence in the grunge-metal scene today if they make the switch to an all-instrumental band or just improve their vocals.



Though the screaming could go, Gnarwhal's explosive energy and superb drumming made them the clear act-to-beat at USN's Zeitgeist.

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# “Laughing and Smiling”

By Alex Apple  
Sports Co-Editor

To Malith Wiek MBA was home. MBA was his family. Having fled Sudan as one of the “lost boys,” he came to the United States searching for a new life.

When MBA hired him as a member of the maintenance staff six short years ago, no one had any idea how many lives he would touch. Malith had the type of personality and attitude that all of us wish we could have. Malith saw sadness and lent a smile; he saw worry and lent a high five. He talked about us all as his friends.

This reflection is truly one of the hardest things that I have ever had to write. How do you say goodbye to a friend you cared for so much? After playing a basketball game on the road this season, our team

would often come back late at night and find Malith waiting for us – vacuuming or sitting in one of our lockers eating popcorn. We all looked forward to seeing him.

Malith cared for all of us. I only hope Malith knew how much we all cared for him. He was so thankful for all that he had, teaching us all a lesson on gratitude. It is a tragedy that a man as kind as Malith would die so soon, but God must have needed another smile in heaven. He is smiling on us now, waiting for us all to join him.

I remember the first few times I met Malith. I would see him and say, “What’s up, Malith?” And he would respond in the only way that he could: “Good!” As we think about Malith today, he is up in heaven telling us that everything is all right and that he is even happier now. For Malith, we should not remember the amount of years

in his life, but the amount of life in his years. He was a blessing to all of us.

Malith would tell us all, “Celebrate my life.” Remember the times we laughed, the times we smiled, and the times we shared. Laughing and smiling – that is the way he lived. That is the way he leaves us. Those of us who loved him and who take him to his rest today pray that what he was to us and what he wished for others will someday come to pass for all the world.

How can we say goodbye to a friend we loved so much? Thank you, Malith, so much for the love you showed to all of us. We can only hope to love life as you did. You touched us all, and we’ll miss you. We’ll see you in heaven, and we’ll laugh it up.

## Students and faculty remember a friend...

“Malith meant a bright smile, a quick, strong handshake, a ‘hey, Cowboy!’ He was my buddy and friend. He taught me a great deal about being happy where you are in life rather than being disgruntled or bitter about life’s inconveniences and discomforts. He was, I think, a real “Mockingbird” – an innocent man, who did nothing but work hard, faithfully and loyally, who asked for little in return, and who was taken from us without explanation.”

- Mr. Emmett Russel

“Malith was a friend who kept me company when I was alone on campus. He watched over me when I had no one else to talk to, and he gave me a lift when I felt down. He is an angel, gone but never forgotten.”

- Denzel Caldwell (‘10)

“Malith Wiek – Big Man – was our brother. We didn’t just lose a member of the MBA staff, we lost a member of our family. He was an angel sent to show us how to love and treat each other. We are all better for having known him, and I am so grateful to have had him as my friend.”

- Holden Mobley (‘10)



“All who work in the maintenance department have been wonderful over the years, friendly and available. Malith, though, stood out. I remember how proud he was when his English skills grew and he could talk with us. When I was responsible for the concession stand in the gym, Malith would stop by to chat and to ask if I needed any drinks from the coolers at the football field. Even if I told him that I could get the drinks myself, he was in the cart and back with five or six cases within five minutes. When I was in charge of the prom and setting up things at the last minute, Malith was right there with me, bringing whatever I needed. He loved his job, he loved being with MBA, he loved watching the students in action, he loved helping, he loved belonging, and he loved knowing that someone needed him.”

- Mr. Anderson Gaither

(Photo above:  
Mr. George  
Mario and Mr.  
Yorgan Petit  
with Malith in  
2005)